

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

Preparing for the Great Political Battle of Monday Next.

A CLOSE CONTEST EXPECTED.

A Foreshadowing of the Probable Result.

HARTFORD, March 31, 1876.

Another real working day remains for the Connecticut politicians before the battle is lost and won. With such a doubtful, wavering constituency it is not an easy matter to determine the exact result in advance. The leading republicans with whom I have conversed in Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Meriden and other places expect the defeat of Ingersoll by the popular vote and the consequent handing over of the choice to the Legislature. If this is the result of Monday's contest then the republicans think they have a chance of controlling the entire vote on joint ballot of Senate and House of Representatives to elect their candidate for United States Senator. The Legislature is, consequently, the pivot around which all efforts of Connecticut statesmen is centered. They do not care so much for the Governorship. Mr. English wants to stay in Washington for the unexpected term of Perry, to which he was appointed, ending 1878, and General Hawley, or some other republican statesman, would have no hesitation in putting on the Senatorial shoes of the present incumbent if he is compelled to "step down and out."

THE FIGHT IN THE TOWNS.

Representatives to the Legislature of Connecticut are elected by towns and not by districts, as in the State of New York. On next Monday 246 of these representatives will be chosen. Last year there were only 245, but on account of one town having been divided into two there are now 246 in the whole State, seventy of which are conceded as very close.

In the latter localities the entire vote-pulling strength of both parties is concentrated. Half a dozen votes in a town where democratic and republican candidates run almost neck and neck might alter the entire complexion of the fight.

TWO YEARS' STATISTICS.

The republicans gained ground in the last contest, as the following figures will show:

LEGISLATURE OF 1874.	
House of Representatives.	126
Democrats.	17
Republicans.	4
Independents.	105
Democratic majority.	13

The independent voters generally voted with the democrats, so that the majority in 1874 was 39, and on joint ballot, 62.

In the Legislature of 1875 the figures stood as follows:

House of Representatives.	
Democrats.	15
Republicans.	6
Independents.	105
Democratic majority.	9

Democratic majority. 37
Majority on joint ballot. 26

Thus it will be seen that the democratic majority in the last Legislature has been cut down from the previous year by sixteen votes.

THE DOUBTFUL AND DUBIOUS TOWNS.

The doubtful and dubious towns, which neither party can have any positive calculation are understood to be as follows, arranged by the Senate districts:

First—New Britain, Rocky Hill, Newington.
Second—East Hartford, East Windsor, Manchester, Marlborough, South Windsor.
Third—Avon, Farmington, Granby, Sunbury, Windsor.

Fourth—New Haven.
Fifth—Bacon Falls, Derby, Orange, Oxford, Seymour, Southbury.
Sixth—Chester, North Branford, North Haven, Prospect.

Seventh—All the towns in this district.
Eighth—Franklin, Griswold, Lisbon, Sprague.
Ninth—All the towns in this district, with the exception of Lebanon.

Tenth—Ridgfield.
Eleventh—Stamford.
Twelfth—All the towns, with the exception of Canaan.

Thirteenth—Asford, Eastford.
Fourteenth—Hartford, New Hartford.
Fifteenth—All the towns in this year.

Sixteenth—Norfolk.
Seventeenth—Cromwell, Chatham, Durham.
Eighteenth—East Haddam, Old Saybrook.
Nineteenth—All the towns in this district.

Twentieth—All except Mansfield.
Twenty-first—All except Mansfield.

This canvass of the different towns of Connecticut has been made from a democratic standpoint. That party claims to be certain of the balance of the towns not mentioned, but by no means concedes the victory in the other localities to republicans. They wish those put down as simply doubtful.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The amendments recently passed to the constitution of Connecticut make many radical changes in the future selection of State officers. This is the last year that we are to have a spring election, and the officers going into power on the 1st of May next will only hold over for eight months. Afterward all elections will be held in November. The Governor and Senate must be chosen for two years, and the Representatives for one year.

One-half of the Senate, however, will be elected annually, the odd districts one year and the even districts the next. The former, therefore, on the next canvass will serve only for one year, but after that the terms of the twenty-one Senators will be of equal duration. This adds considerably to the already complicated machinery of Connecticut government.

The State is entirely too large, but the old constitution of 1835 provides for the choice of representatives by towns, and those towns are to be organized into districts to give up their valued privilege of special representation. It is somewhat extraordinary to witness Connecticut, with a population of about 400,000, sending to the State representatives more than 100 members.

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A LITTLE MORE WART.

No money has been spent in bounties, ratification meetings and high political speeches. When the boys got a \$1,000 in New Hampshire they stood up and called all the people around to rejoice with them. Here, in Connecticut, the greenbacks are circulated in the close towns where they will do most good. There is, no doubt, a great deal of feeling in the State in favor of the democratic ticket.

TALKS OF A PARTY—THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Yale reasons against the democratic ticket to publish an article for an apparent sympathy prevailing the present canvass. One of the main causes is said to be the short term for which the new officials will be chosen. Eight months—less than six months more are to have a new election. The republicans of Connecticut have never yet missed fire on a Presidential contest. If they do this time they intend to present the same ticket at the November contest. They send twelve delegates to the Cincinnati Convention and have six electoral votes in the final election of the President.

Their delegation is unopposed, and on national questions the party in the State always comes together as one harmonious whole. A much larger vote than on Monday will be cast in November. A falling of generally affects the republican ticket seriously.

PRESIDENTIAL LEGISLATION.

Each year there are nominated and elected four or five representatives in the house who dub themselves "independent." At a state of extensive reputation have hitherto generally acted with the democrats on party measures. But those bushwhackers outside of political organizations can become a dangerous element in the State Legislature. If they are not kept in check by the United States Senator is thrown upon the Legislature, and that body is so close that two or three votes may decide the issue.

They are bound by no party ties, governed by no caucus or caucus, and are not bound by the caucus. They can vote for whom they please—Ingersoll or Robinson, English or Jewell. With all this freedom of action, they are not bound by the caucus of Connecticut; this is a contingency which might arise at the election of Monday. Such a state of affairs is a real danger to the republicans.

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A BISHOP'S DISCOVERY.

Where the Declaration of Independence Was Really Written.

MUSTY ARCHIVES EXPLORED.

Devout Patriots Worshipping at the Wrong Shrine for Fifty Years.

JEFFERSON'S LODGING.

Among the many places of historic interest which the Centennial City presents to the eye, two are especially cherished by her good and patriotic citizens. One is old Independence Hall, whence the Declaration of Independence was first proclaimed; the other is the room in which Thomas Jefferson lived, where the Committee of the Continental Congress on the Declaration met, and where the immortal document was written. For very many years the old brick building at the corner of Seventh and Market streets has been pointed out to the patriotic as the place where Jefferson drafted the Declaration.

The building is on the southwest corner of Seventh and Market streets, now in the heart of the business portion of the city. It is known as No. 702 Market street. It fronts on Market street about 16½ feet and seems to be about 55 feet deep on Seventh street. It is built of brick, in the old-fashioned substantial manner, is now four stories in height (it was originally only three), with small, quaint windows, and massive eaves, and with a high peaked roof and dormer windows. The street floor on the Market street front is a trunk store and the rest of the building is rented to various business houses.

This is the place shown to the sightseer as the "house of Mr. Graef," where, as Jefferson himself says, "I rented the second floor, consisting of a parlor and bedroom, ready furnished." In which "parlor" I wrote habitually, and in it wrote this paper (the Declaration) particularly. This second floor is now used for the workshop and offices of a firm of lithographers, who kindly exhibit it to the curious free of charge. Placards on the street front over the second floor windows inform the passer-by that it was here the Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson, and that the portrait of Jefferson, which Franklin seated at a desk, pursuing a book, occupied for a long time the space between the fourth floor windows of the Market street front, with an accompanying inscription designating the building as "the birth-place of liberty."

For fifty years this place has been described and illustrated in guide books, mentioned in historical annals and been the Mecca toward which the feet of reverent patri